



MEDIA RELEASE

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Education, government and business leaders to focus on the 'Power of TAFE' in meeting Australia's skills and workforce needs

TAFE Directors Australia Convention, Brisbane

Leaders from across the tertiary education sector, business and government will be exploring the future of Australia's skills and training system and the unique role of TAFE at the TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) Convention, commencing in Brisbane tomorrow Wednesday September 4.

With the theme 'The Power of TAFE', the convention will hear from a range of speakers on the range of reviews in train in tertiary education in Australia. The opportunities out of these reviews for the public TAFE network around Australia will be a key focus at the gathering. TAFEs will also share best practice and innovation in teaching and learning as the demonstration of the power in TAFEs.

The CEO of TDA Craig Robertson said the convention comes at a critical time for TAFE with the implementation of the Joyce policy review of the VET system underway, with real implications for the way that skills and learning are delivered in the future.

"The TAFE system is pivotal to the delivery of the deep skills that will be central to the growth in jobs and innovation that we know is coming. It is imperative that TAFE has the resources, the capability and the flexibility to fulfil its role and meet these challenges," he said.

Speakers include:

- **The Hon Steve Irons** MP, Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships
- **Michael Brennan**, Chair, Productivity Commission
- **Professor Peter Coaldrake**, Reviewer of the Higher Education Provider Category Standards
- **The Hon Steven Joyce**, author of the Joyce Review of VET
- **Dr Rick Huijbregts**, Vice-President, Strategy and Innovation, George Brown College
- **Mary Faraone**, Chief Executive, Holmesglen Institute
- **David Coltman**, Chief Executive, TAFE SA

- **Professor Nick Klomp**, Vice Chancellor and President, CQUniversity
- **Dr Don Zoellner**, Research Associate, Charles Darwin University
- **Allison Jenvey**, Chair, Wodonga TAFE
- **Mike O'Brien**, Chief of Surgery, The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne
- **Nicholle Duce-O'Brien**, Vice President, Human Resources, Optus
- **David Hughes**, Chief Executive, Association of Colleges, UK
- **Rod Camm**, Principal, Nous Group
- **Saxon Phipps**, Founder, Year13
- **Kerry O'Brien**, MC

There will be a particular focus on the role of technology in driving change in the delivery of skills training, as well as the way technological disruption will impact jobs and skills demand.

There will also be lessons from international experience and discussion about how TAFE needs to evolve to deliver skills training to new cohorts of learners in a more dynamic digital age.

The convention will take place at The Hilton, 190 Elizabeth St Brisbane with keynote sessions on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 September. See the [Convention Program](#)

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions.